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ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITS THIRTY-FOURTH SESSION

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. Hisham ELZIMAITY (Egypt)

PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1996-1997

Section 9. Department for Development Support and Management Services

1. At its 14th meeting, on 25 May 1995, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered section 9, Department for Development Support and Management Services, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

Discussion

2. A number of delegations supported the proposed programme of work while some delegations felt that the resources provided to the Department were not commensurate with the importance of the activities provided by it to developing countries.

3. A number of delegations felt that the potential of the Department in technical cooperation activities should be fully realized and emphasized the



importance of the coordination of its activities with those of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other agencies of the United Nations system. Other delegations underlined the need to avoid duplication of the Department's work with that of other United Nations agencies.

4. Several delegations noted the reduction of extrabudgetary resources projected for 1996-1997 and considered that the level of regular budget resources should also have been reduced proportionally. Other delegations stated that the reduction of extrabudgetary resources should have been compensated by an increase in the regular budget resources. One delegation noted that it expected the Department to be affected by the changes mandated by the General Assembly under its operational activity resolutions, which should lead to a decrease in its recruitment, project management and procurement work, and was surprised there was no reference to this in the budget. Some delegations requested the Secretariat to present a table illustrative of those activities of the programme which had been suppressed.

5. Several delegations questioned the legislative basis for the transfer of the Department's technical cooperation functions from Geneva to Vienna and the establishment of a Reconstruction and Development Unit at Vienna. Some delegations stressed that the transfer of the Unit in Vienna was justified by the proximity to the countries with economies in transition and by the savings that would be generated. Some delegations felt that the proximity factor was not important. Some delegations considered that the activities of the Unit could duplicate technical cooperation functions of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), and sought assurances that duplication and overlap would be avoided. Some delegations suggested a review of the United Nations activities in the context of countries with economies in transition and the activities of other organizations in the same area in order to avoid duplication of work.

6. Some delegations felt that under the Public administration and finance programme not enough attention was given to private sector and entrepreneurship development. Other delegations considered that the programme was well-balanced.

7. Some delegations underlined that in the narrative of the Global development issues and policies programme some important issues of the medium-term plan such as rural development, and science and technology for development, had been ignored.

8. Some delegations considered that the Natural resources and energy programmes should have been presented separately in the fascicle, as they were in the medium-term plan.

9. Some delegations considered that more emphasis should have been placed on the follow-up of the World Summit for Social Development.

Conclusions and recommendations

10. The Committee recommended to the General Assembly that, when considering the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997, it review the programme narrative of section 9, Department for Development Support and Management Services.
